

- d. a pricing script that allows the vendor to associate the flexible representation of the offered product representing one or a combination of multiple commoditized sellable units with prices to create an offer for sale.

2. (Amended) The computer system of Claim 1 where the system controller further comprises:

- A1 Conf
- a. means for retrieving all commoditized sellable units with flexible representations stored in the at least one extensible vendor database for storing flexible representations of vendor definitions that correspond either alone or in combination with other commoditized sellable units to conform to a purchaser's inquiry;
 - b. a associating means for creating associations between at least one of the flexible representations of product definitions stored in vendor database and calculating the price to create an offer for sale; and,
 - c. at least one editor means for entering or changing flexible representations of vendor definitions.
-

7. (Amended) A method for facilitating electronic commerce between a multiplicity of customers and a multiplicity of vendors, comprising:

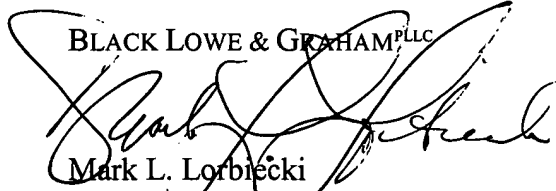
- A2
- a. creating a customer database, comprising:
 - i. enrolling a multiplicity of customers into a closed market;
 - ii. inputting a unique variable identifier to each of the multiplicity of customers; and,
 - iii. creating an initial record containing the identity and demographic information for each of the multiplicity of customers;
 - b. creating a transaction database; comprising:
 - i. providing a commoditized definition for each of a multiplicity of products offered by each of the multiplicity of vendors;
 - ii. creating a record corresponding to each of the multiplicity of products;
 - iii. identifying a sales unit quantity appropriate to the product;

- AZ Cont.*
- iv. inputting a unique variable identifier to the product; and
 - v. sorting and categorizing the products according to categories comprising function, use and composition;
 - c. creating a vendor database, comprising:
 - i. creating a record corresponding to each of a multiplicity of vendors;
 - ii. inputting a unique variable identifier to each of the multiplicity of vendors;
 - d. recording all purchases; comprising:
 - i. identifying each customer who effected the purchase being recorded by each customer's unique variable identifier stored in the customer database;
 - ii. identifying the vendor, from the vendor database, from whom the customer effected the purchase by the vendor's unique variable identifier;
 - iii. splitting each purchase into component line items according to the provided commoditized definition;
 - iv. determining the number of sales units purchased in each component line item;
 - v. identifying each component line item by its unique variable identifier inputted in the transaction database;
 - vi. identifying a date for each purchase; and,
 - vii. inputting a relational instance in the customer database, comprising:
 - (A) the customer's unique variable identifier;
 - (B) the line item's unique variable identifier, stored in the transaction database;
 - (C) the multiple of sales units;
 - (D) the vendor's unique variable identifier, stored in the vendor database; and,
- the date of purchase.

If the examiner has questions, the examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM^{PLLC}


Mark L. Lorbiecki

Registration No. 45,643

Direct Dial: 206.903.1800

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via Express Mail No. EL476256695US under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated below addressed to: **BOX AF**, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202 pursuant to U.S. Patent Office Notice dated November 20, 2001.

2/21/02
Date of Deposit


Michelle J. Funston, Senior Paralegal